

Trinity TriLites

January 2012



Reformed Theological Seminary President to Preach at Trinity

Trinity Church is delighted to welcome Dr. Don Sweeting, the President of Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando to preach the Word on Sunday, January 29. He will speak at both the 9am & 10:45 worship services.

Before coming to RTS/Orlando, Dr. Sweeting served as a pastor for over 20 years. He planted a church in northern Illinois, and most recently served as Senior Pastor of the two thousand member Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in suburban Denver, Colorado. He holds degrees from Lawrence University, Oxford in England, and a Ph.D. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois.

Asked by friends why he would exchange the Rocky Mountains and a growing pastorate to go to flat, hot, humid Central Florida, Sweeting replied: "The prospect of training and equipping pastors and leaders for the global church of the twenty-first century truly excites me."

A noted writer, his blog entitled *The Chief End of Man* is at www.donsweeting.wordpress.com.

Anticipation of his newest book to be released in February, *How to Finish the Christian Life: Following Jesus in the Second Half*, is co-authored with his 87 year old father, Dr. George Sweeting.

Don enjoys baseball, reading, hiking and playing guitar.

From the Pastor...

OK—You Asked For It

It took 15 plus years at Trinity, but I have finally gotten around to it. Many of you have asked: *Now what did you do your doctoral thesis on?*



When I was pastor in the metro NYC area before coming to Venice, I wrapped up my D.Min.



project at Drew University on a subject near and dear to my heart:

Continued: see Billy Sunday on page 4.

GoodNEWS&GreatJOY Christmas



Offering for MADAGASCAR Toliary Breaks \$5170.00

There was a lot of Good News & Great Joy being radiated from Trinity Church on Christmas Eve. And it wasn't about the candles lit that night. As the **TriLites** goes to print, the church family has received in excess of \$5170.00 which will help the FJKM (Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar)

through our PCUSA mission partners Dan and Elizabeth Turk establish a tree nursery in Toliary.

If we reach \$6500 we can underwrite the entire project. Won't you help push us over the top in the New Year?

Trinity Presbyterian Church 4365 State Road 776 Venice Florida 34293

Phone: 941.493.0018 Fax: 941.493.4661 www.Trinitypc.org Worship 9 & 10:45 a.m.

Missions MAT to Sponsor Shower for SPARCC

Trinity's Mission Ministry Action Team is



sponsoring a Personal Care Shower during February for the Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) of Sarasota.

SPARCC is one of the great local missions that Trinity has been supporting for a number of years. Trinity has several church members who are part of the SPARCC Auxiliary.

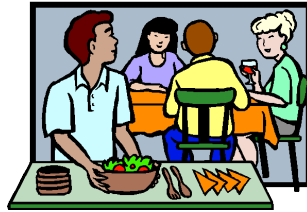
SPARCC's mission is to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and promote a violence free community through awareness and education. SPARCC's free and confidential programs protect families, empower victims to create a brighter future, and work to prevent future violence.

In addition to shelter, SPARCC provides food and other basic necessities to these families. From their wish list, Trinity will be collecting new personal care/hygiene items which include: hair care products, hand and body lotion, deodorant, hairbrushes & combs, shampoo & conditioners (full sizes), toothbrushes & toothpaste and soap.

Look for the decorated laundry baskets at both services on Sundays during February to make your donation. Your donations will help SPARCC continue to meet the needs of the families they serve.

Sharon Ingleton
Mission MAT

Trinity Couples Fellowship Group



New to Trinity? Want to get to know other couples within the Trinity Family? Join the Dinner for Six fellowship...it's a great way to get to know new couples.

How does it work? Three couples meet for dinner at one of the couples (the host) who provided the main dish with the other two couples providing the side dishes. Each couple will host one time during the three month period.

Dinner for Six meets on the 2nd Friday during February, March and April for dinner and fellowship. For more information contact Kay Hesterhagen (485-6791). Also be on the lookout for upcoming couples events.



Euchre Card Club will resume at 6:30pm on Thursday, January 12th. They meet each second and fourth Thursday of the month. Please bring your own beverage and snacks. Reservations are required. Call Betty Kuhlman (497-6852) no later than the Tuesday before the scheduled card night. We have a great time together, why not join us?

C.A.M. CORNER

As I look back on 2011, does anyone else think this year has flown by? I am in awe of how great God is. God continues to amaze me in his abundance, grace, forgiveness, faithfulness, favor and love. CAM sends a special thank you to every business, organization, community, church, and individual who has donated to CAM in 2011. You know who you are, and I am here to remind you, that we cannot do what we do without your generosity.

CAM gives a special welcome and thank you to New Life Assembly of God. On Monday, January 9, 2012, CAM will open its doors at 10:30 am. This third day is made possible by the body of volunteers from New Life Assembly of God. I think this partnership is the first of its kind - a church performing outreach through another church - an Assembly of God Church working through a Presbyterian Church - glory to God.

We have lots of exciting events coming up. Stay tuned as details unfold.

- Fashion Show/Luncheon - Jan 13, 2012 - Tickets are on sale now. See Barbara Jahnke for tickets.
- Souper Bowl of Caring - Feb 5, 2012
- Crop Walk 2012 - Feb 26, 2012

I look forward to another year with you all. May God order our steps, be the director of our actions, and be the source of our strength. Together in Christ Jesus, with his love.....

Karin Barbato



Giving of Their Time and Talents...



Ray Sutherland

Upon graduating from high school, Ray served in the Air Force for four years and then majored in Biology and Chemistry at Western Kentucky University. After graduating in 1961, he taught and also earned a Masters in Education. In 1970, he was employed by the Kentucky Education Association as a Staff Representative and also began working toward a doctorate. In 1974, the Ohio Education Association hired Ray to fulfill the same position he had held in Kentucky. He retired in August of 2000.

Throughout his life, Ray has been involved with church work – either teaching or leading a class. Currently, he leads the gathering class in which each participant gets to lead the class and to share Christ's message with the others. Not only is Ray, a Deacon at Trinity, he also heads a group of retired men who lunch out twice a month. In addition, he is a Stephen Minister and has been since 2006. Although he has had several cases, one lesson that he has learned since becoming a Stephen Minister is that the Lord fixes the problems and that we are His conduits.

Ray and his wife, Sharon, our music minister, originally intended to retire on Seabrook Island, South Carolina, where they had honeymooned. A friend, however, encouraged them to check out southwest Florida; they built in 2000 and have made their life here.



Su Ulrich



With a B. A. in Music Education from Florida Atlantic University, Su Ulrich has taught choral and general music in grades K – 12 in both public and Christian schools. Her diverse background has included working with Special Education students, selling pianos and organs, and acting with the Covenant Players (a Christian Drama Ministry). Presently, Su has developed her own solo ministry of Women of the Bible through drama and song and recently has added historical characters to her repertoire. She has performed in six states and also in Israel. For more information, visit www.SuUlrich.com.

In 2008, Su settled permanently in Venice to be with her mom and to enjoy the warmer climate. It was then that she decided to become a Stephen Minister, a course of study that has enriched her walk with the Lord. As a spiritual caregiver at VRMC, she concentrates on being a good listener, using old-fashioned common sense, and praying with the patients.

Both Ray and Su have contributed greatly to Trinity Presbyterian not only as Stephen Ministers, but also in the many other ways they have given of their time and talents. They continue to be a blessing to our congregation.



SESSION HAPPENINGS

Here are some of the "highlights" from the December 10, 2011 meeting of Session:

- ◆ **GOBBLED UP** a superb Eggs Florentine breakfast served by Susan Gastony as Pastor Chuck led a discussion of *The Externally Focused Church* ("Organizing for Usefulness.")
- ◆ **DESIGNATED** 2012 Christmas GoodNEWS & GreatJOY Offering for the Toliary Tree Nursery in Madagascar run by our Mission Partner, Dr. Dan Turk.
- ◆ **ADOPTED** the 2012 Budget for Trinity Church of \$609,805 as presented by the Budget MAT with the stipulation that the Trustees pay close attention to the first quarter revenue levels.
- ◆ **REVIEWED** the Membership Roll in accordance with Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order*. Fifteen persons were removed primarily for geographic relocation or unknown addresses.
- ◆ **DELIGHTED** in hearing a comprehensive report about numerous projects completed on our building and grounds. Session offered a hearty vote of thanks to Elmer June and Dan Dunham.
- ◆ **OFFERED THANKS** by Pastor Chuck, on behalf of the congregation, to the following elders for job well done: Florence Barker, Bud Beeman, John Joslin, Roger Kizzek, Mary Thompson, and Barb Middlethorn. They are rotating off Session in 2011.



BILLY SUNDAY
from page 1

William Ashley Sunday. Better known as the ex-professional ball player-turned-evangelist, Billy Sunday barnstormed the country in the first third of the 20th century preaching the gospel to record crowds.

Part of my research was on the preaching style of this rough-and-tumble, bare-knuckled Presbyterian minister. I completed my work 1992 actually put on a brief one act presentation that was videotaped called *An Evening with Billy Sunday*.

For our purposes we'll change it to breakfast this time as the Men's Fellowship gathers on January 14th at 8:30am. I'll be speaking on why this renowned athlete-turned-preacher had such a rousing impact on our nation.

A big part of this research was intensely personal: In 1915, my grandfather William Thomas Wiggins, was known as a hard scrabble gambler and saloon brawler. "Grandpa Wigs" heard Sunday preach on a lark in Philadelphia and was radically converted. I mean *really converted*. He took his wife and six children (later to be nine) to prepare for the ministry in Chicago. The rest, as they say, is history.

Guys, I hope you can make it. I should be a lot of fun.

Chuce



CAUTION: Enter at Your Own Risk

When the journey of a year ends and a new one begins one is often tempted to view it as "Caution: Enter into the new year at your own risk." It is our skeptical nature that sees such entrance as still traveling the same old road that we are on and not coming to be an opportunity giving us to live with new confidence and thankfulness. It seems to me that all New Year passages give us an opportunity for newness within our lives and thankfulness through our lives. Will you enter 2012 with up lifted confidence and gratitude?

We do come into a New Year with the experience of having been on an old road. Because of that the year 2011 is still with us. Those experiences with their joy and sorrow became part of the journey, sunshine and shadows and darkness as well, with times of great fulfillment being recall and sad disappointments.

The New Year of 2012 offers us a new reality as real as the sun breaking forth on the horizon.

The God who is with us is never surprised by life, the way that it unfolds within our lives coming along side of us granting us his peace, hope, and fullness of life. God in his Son Jesus Christ is our companion in 2012 as he has been in the past. In Jesus, we find God coming to save us from our sins and to equip us to live life to the fullest each day.



So let's rejoice in our entering 2012 with great expectations and hope, let us walk through the year being renewed within our lives as we step from the past into the presence and future. And to each of us I say simply for 2012, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Blessings,
Lewis Trotter
Pastoral Associate

TRINQUIERERS CLASS SET FOR FEBRUARY 4TH "Come & See!"



If you would like to become a member of the Trinity Church family, we invite you to be part of the next **TRINQUIERERS**

gathering on Saturday, February 4th at 9:30am. **TRINQUIERERS** is the formal entry point into the Trinity congregation. It touches a on lot of the basics from "What is a Presbyterian" to answer some nuts and bolts questions folks have about "how things are run" here locally at Trinity. It is also designed to reaffirm some of the "basics" about what being a follower of Jesus Christ involves. The class is two and one half hours in length.

Cover2Cover Book Discussion Group

If you enjoy reading and fellowshiping with others of the same interest—you may want to consider joining this group. This month, we will meet on Tuesday, January 17th at 7pm in the church lounge. We will discuss, *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. For further information contact Nancy Miller at 423-7183. Have a blessed New Year's and hope to see you on the 17th.





**Coming This Month...
Don't Delay
Get your Ticket Now!**

**GUY PENROD IN CONCERT
January 19, 2012
(7:00PM)**

Get Your Tickets Now ... General Admission (\$20)
Trinity will host a Guy Penrod Concert on Thursday, January 19th. Buy one for yourself and another for a friend. Tickets may be purchased on Sunday mornings or by stopping by the Church office (493-0018) during the week.

WHITE ELEPHANTS & TREASURES



The Women of Trinity will be holding their Annual White Elephant Sale on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012. Save those unwanted treasures and donate to the cause. We will be accepting items beginning in February. This year's proceeds is designated for the Stephen Ministry program. Please note: we do not accept clothing, televisions, or computers. We'll also be needing lots of volunteers – contact Florence Barker (493-1439) for more details.



CAM Annual Luncheon / Fashion Show

Our Community Assistance Ministry (CAM) will hold their annual luncheon / fashion show on Friday, January 13th at 11:30am at the Pelican Pointe Country Club. The cost of \$26/per person will include a delicious lunch at the Country Club with \$10 of the proceeds going to the CAM Food Pantry. Contact Barbara Jahnke (486-0970) for tickets.

ROTONDA!



It has come to our Membership MAT's attention how many folks drive long distances to worship with us weekly—especially in that southern “nethermost” point known as Rotonda. It is estimated that currently there are thirty persons—members, affiliate, snowbirds, friends—who are part of the Trinity Church family.

The Rotonda folks will have an opportunity to get to know each other on Sunday afternoon, February 19 at the Rotonda Club House. We'll enjoy some finger foods and good fellowship. Pastor Chuck will be there, he is especially interested in these “southerners”.

For more details you can all Anne and Gerry Broshar at 941-697-2532. Bravo to these folks who come ‘hither and yon’ to be part of the Trinity Church family. Let's plan on a great turnout.



From the Finance Office

A few reminders as we close out the year and begin a new year

- ◆ Did you pick up your envelopes? If not, please stop by the office during the week or give us a call so we can deliver them or mail them to you.
- ◆ Each member is asked to help defray the cost of the Presbyterian Per Capita, which is significantly lower than previous years. The amount is \$8.08 per person or \$16.16 per couple. You can write one check for your pledge, building, and/or per capita and mark your envelope accordingly.
- ◆ If you would like to start the new year making monthly donations that are automatically deducted from your checking or savings account, or with credit card payments, please contact Linda in the office during the week (493-0018).

VOLUNTEER Appreciation Luncheon

2/18/2012



Once again the Trinity Staff will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Each of you are important to us and the work of the church. We (as a staff) want to give back to you—by treating you to a special luncheon on Saturday, February 18.

So please block February 18th from 11:30-1:00pm out on your calendar and plan to attend. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

TriLites

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4365 State Road 776
Venice, Florida 34293



FELLOWSHIP OF PRESBYTERIANS TO MEET IN ORLANDO—JANUARY 18-20

In a turnout that is expected to exceed 2,000 people, the Fellowship of Presbyterians will be gathering at the Rosen Shingle Creek convention complex in Orlando on January 18-20.

The Fellowship of Presbyterians is a movement within the Presbyterian Church (USA) that has been concerned about the perceived leftward theological drift of the denomination. Although initially a response to the shift in ordination

standards, their concerns revolve around the nature and authority of the Bible, the non-negotiable of Jesus Christ as the way of salvation, and the nature of the “institutional” church.



Their website motto is *Presbyterians working together to nurture a new way of being the Church.*

Pastor Chuck will be attending this event. If you would like know more about what is being called *Orlando Covenanting Conference* their website is www.fellowship-pres.org.